



**MOUNTLAKE
TERRACE**

March 18, 2009

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City of Edmonds
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Mr. Joe Simmler, PhD
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Otak
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Re: Comments on Technical Memorandum No. #2 Dated February 19, 2009

Dear Jerry and Joe:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Tech Memo 2, specifically the lead time provided for review and comment. The document is well written and conveys the general message we are looking for in the overall Strategic Action Plan. We have the following comments and suggestions at this time:

1. Page 7, Section 2.1. Under City of Mountlake Terrace, add the following:
 - Road closures at 216th St. SW, 220th St. SW and 226th St. SW, I-5 off-ramp to 220th St. SW
 - Golf course closures or limited play due to high lake level
 - Closure of Lake Ballinger Boat Launch and Fishing Pier Access

2. Page 11, Section 2.2. Title indicates "Previous Efforts" while the list indicates that some efforts are ongoing. Suggest you eliminate "Previous." Under City of Mountlake Terrace, add the following additional efforts:
 - 2004 – Adopted a new Critical Area Code to address stream corridors and wetland areas in regard to adjacent development.
 - 2006 – Developed an interlocal agreement with the Department of Ecology for operation of the Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek outlet weir.

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- 2007 – Adopted a Town Center Subarea Plan addressing stormwater management techniques in the new Town Center Area.
 - 2008 – Began a program to install catch basin inserts in selected basins tributary to Hall Creek and Lake Ballinger.
 - 2008 – Developed an updated Storm Water Comprehensive Plan.
 - 2008 – Adopted a Sustainability Strategy establishing the City as a leader in the preservation of existing green space and the protection of creeks and streams.
3. Page 23, Table 2. Development of a “Lake Management Plan” is mentioned as a “Highly Rated/Ranked Potential Action” in Table 2. A water quality management plan for Lake Ballinger was developed and implemented by Mountlake Terrace in 1986 along with control of the lake level through an adjudicated agreement. Suggest changing “develop a lake management plan” to “develop lake level management procedures” that are directly related to the potential change in weir elevation.
 4. Page 25, 4.6.a. Same comment as 4. above.
 5. Page 26, 5. Analysis of Level 1 Flood Reduction Potential Actions. The City of Mountlake Terrace encourages the development of low impact development techniques for stormwater control where feasible. We have allowed low impact techniques since our adoption of the Ecology Stormwater Design Manual in 2001. The Town Center Plan encourages a healthy “green” environment with open spaces and landscaping that is consistent with low impact development. Our Sustainability Strategy also encourages the use of low impact development techniques. Our policy to date has been to encourage rather than require these efforts.
 6. Page 32, Table 3. Make suggested change listed in 3. above for lake management plan. Change timeframe for “Modify weir at Lake Ballinger, develop lake level management procedures” to short and medium term.
 7. Page 34, 7.1. Issue A – Lake Flooding. With the comments made previously regarding a “lake management program”, revise the second bullet in this section by eliminating the

phrase “Develop a lake level management program” and inserting “Implement lake level management procedures as part of the Strategic Action Plan” in its place.

8. Page 34, 7.2. Issue B – Lake Water Quality/Habitat. Revise the last bullet to read: “Revise the existing plan for the Restoration of Lake Ballinger to reflect data and information collected on the lake since the plan was prepared in 1986.”
9. Page 37, 8. Summary of Costs. Revise Table 4, Issue A to reflect purchase of three single family homes on Hall Creek (one of the properties is currently located in unincorporated Snohomish County) at a total cost of \$1,150,000 (\$350,000, \$350,000 and \$450,000). Revise Lake Level Modification section to reflect a range of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for study, design, permitting and construction to manage the lake level depending on the level option chosen for implementation.
10. Page 38, 9. Priorities for Implementation. Item 1. Remove the first word in the sentence “Require” and replace with “Encourage incentives for” in its place. Mountlake Terrace may support requirements in our city, but could not support a mandate for member jurisdictions to require any form of compliance.
11. Page 40, 10.5, Summary of Costs. Item 1. Remove the first word in the sentence “Require” and replace with “Encourage incentives for” in its place.
12. Page 41, Long-Term Potential Actions. In the last line, change “develop a lake management plan” to “implement lake level management procedures.”
13. Appendix D.
 - All Tables, general statement to replace the work “require” with encourage under the Potential Actions column.
 - Table D-1, A-LT 3. Replace “Develop Lake Level Management Plan” with “Revise Lake Level Requirements to Accommodate Storm Events”
14. Appendix F.

City of Mountlake Terrace Comments on Tech Memo #2

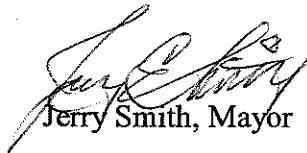
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- Table F-2, Alt. No. A-LT4. Under Potential Actions, replace “Develop lake management plan to operate the lake as a large detention facility” with “Develop a new lake level protocol to accommodate large storm events”
- Table F-2, Alt. No. A-LT4. Under Goal, replace the first sentence with “Lower existing winter lake level and modify weir to accommodate storm events.” In the last sentence, delete the words “Provide sufficient detention to”
- Table F-2, Alt. No. A-LT4. Under Description of Concept, delete “Dredge Lake Bottom as needed” and “of” in the first line.
- Table F-3, Alt. No. B-LT1. Under Feasibility/Challenges, delete the existing line and replace with “Encourage the use of LID in new development and re-development through incentives by ordinance”
- Table F-6, Alt. D-LT1. Under Feasibility/Challenges, delete the existing line and replace with “Encourage the use of LID in new development and re-development through incentives by ordinance”

Lastly, the City of Mountlake Terrace once again suggests additional forum meetings to ensure there is a thorough review of the proposed Strategic Action Plan and to allow for public comment. We look forward to ongoing discussion on these issues to develop the final Strategic Action Plan for the Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,



Jerry Smith, Mayor

cc: Mountlake Terrace City Council
Lake Ballinger Watershed Forum
John Caulfield, City Manager
Mike Shaw, Stormwater Program Manager
Don Sarcletti, Recreation and Parks Director
Curt Brees, Public Works Director